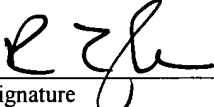




IFW

**PATENT**  
065618.0109

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8, I hereby certify that I have information and a reasonable basis for belief that this correspondence will be deposited as first-class mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 10, 2004.

  
Signature

9-10-04  
Date

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Hieb, Larry E.

Serial No.: 10/635,962

Filed: August 7, 2003

Invention: Retractable Gauge Step for Flexible  
Multi-Depth Vending

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

Group No.: 3653

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant respectfully requests, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the art listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified application. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97(g) and (h), no representation is made that these references are material to the patentability of the present application. In accordance with the guidance provided in 1276 Off. Gaz. Pat. Off. 55, copies of the U.S. patents identified in the attached PTO-1449 are not included herewith.

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being submitted before the mailing of the earlier of the first office action on the merits, the mailing date of a final office action, or a notice of allowance. Applicant believes that no fee is required. If a fee is required, please charge any fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,



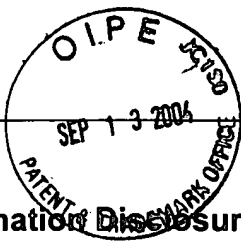
---

Roger Fulghum  
Registration No. 39,678

Baker Botts L.L.P.  
One Shell Plaza  
910 Louisiana  
Houston, TX 77002-4995  
(713) 229-1707

Attorney Docket No.: 065618.0109

Date: September 10, 2004



PTO-1449 <b>Information Disclosure Citation in an Application</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/635,962	Larry E. Hieb	
	Docket Number	Group Art Unit	Filing Date
	065618.0109	3653	August 7, 2003

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A	3,556,345	01/19/71	Rowekamp	221	242	05/27/68
	B	3,674,175	07/04/72	Jaquish	221	92	11/12/70
	C	3,684,131	08/15/72	Kurimsky	221	242	04/22/70
	D	3,757,998	09/11/73	Millies et al.	221	242	12/08/71
	E	3,883,038	05/13/75	Bookout	221	67	11/12/73
	F	4,096,969	06/27/78	Ragusa	221	199	05/09/77
	G	4,168,784	09/25/79	Heier	221	125	10/05/77
	H	4,254,892	03/10/81	Lee	221	90	08/06/79
	I	4,757,915	07/19/88	Albright et al.	221	75	08/25/86
	J	4,846,367	07/11/89	Guigan et al.	221	81	07/01/87
	K	4,940,161	07/10/90	Hieb	221	67	06/28/88
	L	4,986,615	01/22/91	Hieb et al.	312	45	10/17/88
	M	5,127,546	07/07/92	Chen	221	242	08/08/91
	N	5,511,646	04/30/96	Maldanis et al.	194	217	06/03/93
	O	5,516,003	05/14/96	Hebert	221	130	11/28/94
	P	5,529,207	06/25/96	Oden et al.	221	67	01/25/95
	Q	5,799,823	09/01/98	Feltrin	221	298	10/28/96
	R	US 6,179,161 B1	01/30/01	Kovens et al.	221	131	11/13/98
	S	US 6,302,293 B1	10/16/01	Wittern, Jr., et al.	221	92	04/16/99
	T	US 6,513,887, B2	02/04/03	Paczkowski et al.	312	45	01/05/01

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	U	PCT/US03/024897	08/07/03	PCT				

**NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)	DATE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.